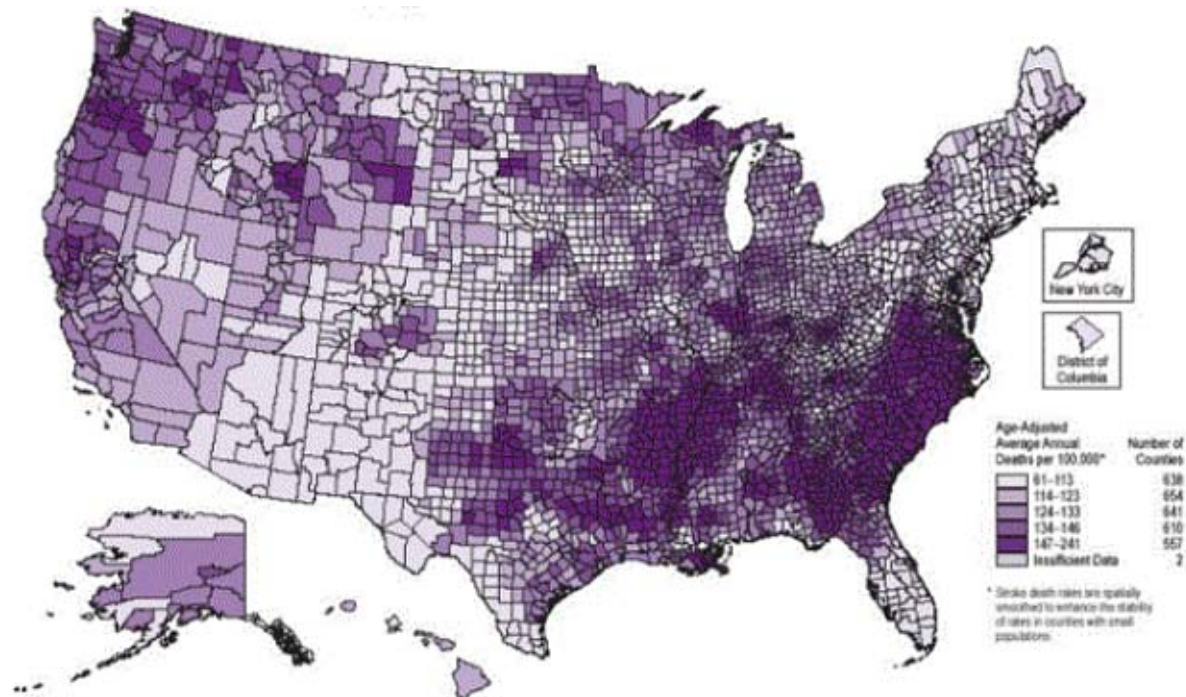




Stroke Fact Sheet



Stroke Facts in the United States



Stroke Death Rates, 1991–1998, Adults Ages 35 Years or Older, by County

Source: *Atlas of Stroke Mortality: Racial, Ethnic, and Geographic Disparities in the United States*, January 2003.

Stroke Facts in the United States

- Stroke is the third leading cause of death after heart disease and cancer and a leading cause of serious, long-term disability.
- In 2002, stroke killed 162,672 people (61% of them women), accounting for about 1 of every 15 deaths. The death rate was 56 per 100,000 population.
- Stroke death rates are substantially higher for African Americans than for whites (2002 rates per 100,000 population: 82 for black men, 72 for black women, 54 for white men, and 53 for white women).
- For other racial and ethnic groups, 2002 stroke death rates per 100,000 population were 48 for Asians/Pacific Islanders, 41 for Hispanics, and 37 for American Indians/Alaska Natives.
- Approximately 50% of stroke deaths occur before the person reaches the hospital.
- Each year, about 700,000 people suffer a stroke (about 500,000 first attacks and 200,000 recurrent attacks).
- From the early 1970s to the early 1990s, the estimated number of noninstitutionalized stroke survivors increased from 1.5 million to 2.4 million.
- Medicare spent \$3.6 billion in 1998 on stroke survivors discharged from short-stay hospitals.

Sources: American Heart Association. *Heart and Stroke Statistics—2005 Update*. Available at www.americanheart.org.* CDC. *Health, United States 2004*. Available at www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm.

CDC Activities to Reduce the Stroke Burden

CDC's Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program: CDC currently funds health departments in 32 states and the District of Columbia to develop effective strategies to reduce the burden of heart disease and stroke and related risk factors. This program emphasizes the need for policy and program changes that promote heart-healthy and stroke-free living and working conditions. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/cvh/state_program/index.htm.

Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry: CDC funds four state health departments (Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, and North Carolina) to establish state-based Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registries with the mission of monitoring, promoting, and improving the quality of acute stroke care in their states. These were established after testing and evaluating eight prototype projects. The data collected will guide quality improvement interventions at the hospital level that will fill the gap between clinical guidelines and practice. The registries will help facilitate necessary policy and system changes at national, state, and local levels that will result in improvement in patient outcomes. The long-term goal of this program is to ensure that all Americans receive the highest quality of acute stroke care that is available to reduce untimely deaths, prevent disability, and avoid recurrent strokes.

Stroke Networks: Stroke networks allow state health departments and their partners to share and coordinate prevention activities and advocacy strategies. CDC supports the Tri-State Stroke Network in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina and the Delta State Stroke Consortium in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

Atlas of Stroke Mortality: Racial, Ethnic, and Geographic Disparities in the United States: This publication is the third in a series of CDC atlases related to cardiovascular disease. It presents, for the first time, an extensive series of national and state maps depicting disparities in county-level stroke death rates for the five largest U.S. racial and ethnic groups. This information will help health professionals and concerned citizens tailor prevention policies and programs to communities with the greatest burden of stroke. An interactive version of the atlas is available at www.cdc.gov/cvh/maps/index.htm.

For more information, visit the following Web sites:

For more information about stroke warning signs, risk factors, prevention, treatment, and new research, please visit the following Web sites of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its partners.

- CDC's Cardiovascular Health Program: <http://www.cdc.gov/cvh>
- American Heart Association: <http://www.americanheart.org/> *
- American Stroke Association: <http://www.strokeassociation.org> *
- National Stroke Association: <http://www.stroke.org> *
- Brain Attack Coalition: <http://www.stroke-site.org> *
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov>
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke: <http://www.ninds.nih.gov>

*Links to non-Federal organizations are provided solely as a service to our users. Links do not constitute an endorsement of any organization by CDC or the Federal Government, and none should be inferred. The CDC is not responsible for the content of the individual organization Web pages found at this link.